



# BookCrossing and your Library

## A match made in literary heaven

Are you wondering if BookCrossing and your library have a future together? The answer is a resounding YES! There are many ways to incorporate this wonderful aspect of book sharing into your current library, supporting readers and expanding horizons.

First, take a good look at your current collection. Are you worried that it will begin to wander away as BookCrossing books? Relax! Your much-loved collection will remain at home. It will be those adventurous BookCrossing books that will do the traveling. Most libraries have a section of paperbacks that aren't part of the permanent collection, or books that are considered discards for one reason or another. Those books can be the beginning of your **Official BookCrossing Zone (OBCZ)**. Here's how to begin

1. Identify books with a desire for travel. Those books that are ready to expand their horizons can become part of your OBCZ.
2. Pick an area for your Zone -- as simple as a windowsill or as elaborate as a bookshelf. Keep it somewhat separate from your permanent collection, to avoid confusion.
  - For a school:
    - just inside or outside the library door
    - in the cafeteria
    - classroom of an involved teacher
    - outside the office
    - in the after care area
    - in the school lobby
    - the computer lab or media center
    - or actually in the library
  - For a public library:
    - on a rack in the library
    - near the front door or exit
    - by the check-out desk
    - by the community bulletin board
    - near the bathrooms or pay phone
3. Recruit help. If you are in a school, recruit student volunteers as helpers.
4. Create a fun name for your OBCZ - have a naming contest, or make that the first "assignment" for your volunteer team. Once you have a name, use it to create a user profile at BookCrossing at <http://www.bookcrossing.com/join>.
5. Register each book with its own unique BookCrossing ID Number (BCID) at <http://www.bookcrossing.com/register>, then release it at your OBCZ. You're BookCrossing!

Our website has a small poster about BookCrossing that can be printed out and placed by the OBCZ at <http://www.bookcrossing.com/promote>. This or a small flyer can be used to inform parents and your community about your new BookCrossing project. It should be made clear that the BookCrossing books are not part of the permanent collection, which will remain intact.

On labeling books: we have free, downloadable, ready-to-print labels on our website at <http://www.bookcrossing.com/labels>. Alternatively, we have premium bookplate labels featuring limited-edition artwork and small BookCrossing logo stickers available for purchase from our Supply Store at <https://secure.bookcrossing.com/store>. We recommend labeling books clearly, so there is no confusion as to which books belong to the library's permanent collection, and which books are BookCrossing books. In addition, the more clearly your books are labeled, the more likely you are to have people "find" your books, make journal entries on them, and join in the fun! There's a forum discussion on labeling books at <http://www.bookcrossing.com/forum/2/1120251>.

On releasing books to your OBCZ: since release alerts for wild releases notify everyone in your area (and not just people connected with your school) when a book has been released, we recommend using the controlled release function or a journal entry when a book comes to visit your OBCZ. It is important that your books be labeled on the inside and outside so that they are easily distinguishable from your permanent collection. Once the book has been registered and labeled, it's ready to begin its BookCrossing adventure. And so are you and your library!

Once your OBCZ is up and running, you'll want a constant flow of contributions to keep it thriving. Encourage donations from the community and school. For information on the "care and feeding" of your OBCZ, visit our OBCZ discussion forum at <http://www.bookcrossing.com/forum/27>.